

# King County Councilmember

**District Eight**

June 2005



**King County Courthouse**

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**King County**

## Dow Constantine

Dear Friend:

This is a time of change for King County and the Eighth County Council District. County voters have approved a reduction in the number of Council members from 13 to 9, so the Eighth District is due to expand next year to add the Seattle neighborhoods of Pioneer Square, SoDo, Georgetown and the International District, plus the entire cities of Burien and Normandy Park and portions of Tukwila, SeaTac and Beacon Hill.

North Highline area residents are discussing governance options, such as incorporation or joining an existing city through annexation. Burien is taking on the challenge of regional economic and population growth by seeking designation as a regional growth center. On Vashon and Maury Islands, volunteers are preparing for the possibility of a natural disaster or terrorist incident that could temporarily isolate the islands from mainland emergency services. In West Seattle, citizens of Admiral, Alki and Harbor Avenue are closely watching proposed changes in flight patterns at King County International Airport.

But we must also find time to celebrate. On April 8, representatives of 25 arts, culture, and heritage organizations from throughout District Eight gathered for Arts Day—a recognition of the arts and a networking opportunity for local arts administrators. The first of May saw a record crowd at West Seattle's Seacrest dock as the Elliott Bay Water Taxi kicked off another summer season transporting people to and from the downtown waterfront. And on June 1, hundreds of people gathered in White Center to break ground for Greenbridge, an ambitious redevelopment of the former Park Lake Homes.

This newsletter includes reports on just a few of the myriad activities in our exciting and multi-faceted district. It is an honor to represent this union of dozens of diverse neighborhoods and the citizens who make the Eighth District their home.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely

Dow Constantine  
Metropolitan King County Councilmember

## North Highline governance study examines future options

A county-funded governance study is underway to help residents of North Highline assess the advantages and disadvantages of joining an existing city or trying to start a new city.

In April, the King County Council approved \$75,000 to fund the study and a public survey and outreach process.

Our goal is to give the 32,000 citizens of North Highline all the information they need to make an informed decision about the future of their community. North Highline includes the neighborhoods of White Center, Boulevard Park, Beverly Park, Top Hat and Salmon Creek, among others. It is one of

King County's most dynamic and ethnically diverse areas.

The study is being completed by Nesbitt Planning and Management, Inc. and is intended to gauge the effects of governance options including annexation and incorporation on local services and taxation. A capital improvement plan for the area will also be drafted. Door-to-door surveys of neighborhood residents and focus groups are being conducted to sample the opinions of residents.

King County is encouraging the annexation or incorporation of North Highline and nine other large urban unincorporated areas through the Annexa-

tion Initiative, a multi-year partnership with local governments and residents. The state Growth Management Act calls for cities to provide local services in urban areas, while King County will continue to provide regional and rural services.



## County work crew goes full-time in North Highline

Through my work on the 2005 budget, the part-time work crew serving the White Center and Boulevard Park neighborhoods was expanded to full-time operation.

Most days, the crew starts work in the White Center business district, cleaning streets and alleys. Other jobs include responding to reports of graffiti and illegal dumping, taking job requests from the White Center and Boulevard Park police storefronts, and helping enforcement officers deal with chronic abatement issues.

## Celebrating Arts & Heritage Day

Representatives of 25 arts, culture and heritage organizations from throughout District Eight joined me on April 8 for a forum at ArtsWest in West Seattle.

District Eight Arts Day provided an opportunity for these groups to share news and ideas with me, representatives of 4Culture (the former Cultural Development Association of King County) and each other.

It was a great chance to learn more about each group's latest projects, challenges and plans for the future. As a former ArtsWest and Allied Arts board member, and a lifelong supporter of the arts, it's remarkable to me how the arts and heritage community manages to produce such vital work on such limited resources. Starting with my next district newsletter, we will profile a District Eight arts and heritage group in each issue.

The participants—representing organizations ranging from the Highline Community Symphonic Band (“Burien’s best-kept secret,” according to oboe player Gordon Somerville) to the Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association—suggested ways that King County can help small arts, culture and heritage groups serve our communities.

## White Center Food Bank on the move

The White Center Food Bank will be moving this summer—twice.

The food bank will eventually relocate from its longtime location in the King County Housing Authority's Park Lake Homes to a site adjacent to White Center's King County Public Health Center. For several months, however, the food bank will be located in rented space while the new modular structure is constructed.

To help out with the extra costs imposed by this double move, I sought and secured a \$15,000 special budget allocation from King County in April.

The new food bank will be more than twice the size of the former facility. It serves more than 4,000 people each month. To contact the White Center Food Bank, call 762-2848.



## Greenbridge project gets off to sweet start

*A cake cutting ceremony replaced the traditional gold shovels at the Greenbridge groundbreaking ceremony on June 1. Here, I am joined by State Senator Erik Poulsen, recent Evergreen High School graduate Yordanos Fesehay, and County Executive Ron Sims.*



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***North Highline/Burien  
community news  
and information***

**If we can be of assistance to you, please contact us**

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